



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL
INSPECTIONS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 372
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
<http://sbc.lacounty.gov>**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (13-5486)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chairperson Eleanor R. Montaño, Vice Chairperson
Frank S. Bacio, Commissioner Barbara Bigby, Commissioner
Donald S. Andrews and Commissioner Maxine Russell M.A., M.S.

Excused: Commissioner Cheryl Grills Ph.D., Commissioner Anne S. Hill
and Commissioner Susan Burton

Staff Present: Bolaji Famuyiwa, Nyla Jefferson and Jenny Kimbell

Call to Order. (13-5331)

Chairperson Montaño called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Chairperson Montaño led in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a
moment of silence.**

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER

1. Approval of the November 13, 2013 Minutes. (13-5332)

**On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by
Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of
November 13, 2013 were approved.**

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORTS

2. Department Representatives Reports for November 20, 2013.
 - Department of Auditor-Controller
 - Monthly Report

- Department of Mental Health
 - Monthly Report
- Internal Services Department
 - Monthly Report
- Sheriff's Department
 - Monthly Report
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
 - Monthly Report
- Probation Department
 - Monthly Report (13-5333)

Auditor Controller's (AC) Report:

Ms. Michele Day, AC, Group Home Ombudsman, distributed copies and reported on the Children's Group Home Ombudsman Activity Report for the month of October 2013 as follows:

12 Total calls

- Youth callers = 8
- Adult callers = 4

Calls relating to Collaboration Contacts/Referrals = 14

- 3 = Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)
- 2 = DCFS Child Protection Hotline
- 4 = Group Home
- 1 = Police Department
- 1 = Probation Ombudsman
- 3 = General Information

5 Personal Rights

- 2 = Food (Murrell's Farm, Rosemary's)
- 2 = Respect (Penny Lane)
- 1 = School/Community/Religious Svcs (Turmont)

1 Personal

- 1 = Physical Abuse/Harm (Rosemary's)

1 Other

- 1 = Case Social Worker Related Issues (Penny Lane)

3 Total Visits/Outreach

- Dangerfield Institute of Urban Problems (3 sites)

Continuing her report, Ms. Day distributed copies of the screen shots from the recently revamped website for Children's Group Home Ombudsman (CGHO). The website features links to the CGHO posters/brochures, frequently asked questions, AC and information for the group home residents. The revamped website can also be accessed from the AC website. To promote the new website, the AC will be sending letters to the group home providers/directors to apprise them of the website; the CGHO poster, which also has the new website address, will be posted at all group home facilities.

Department of Mental Health (DMH) Report:

The DHM representative, Kathryn Stroupe, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Supervisor, Residential/TBS Program Administration, did not have a monthly report; however, Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews briefed Ms. Stroupe of their impressive inspection findings when they visited and inspected Camp Scott on November 19, 2013. The Commissioners specifically expressed their satisfaction with the success of the Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) program which provides therapy for youth who present with varied symptoms and behaviors associated with sexual abuse, self-injury, and chemical dependency. Commissioner Andrews distributed copies of the brochure which provided an overview of the DBT treatment process.

Commissioner Andrews further inquired if Ms. Stroupe had any information regarding the plans to build a mental health facility for the jails. Ms. Stroupe will look into the inquiry and report back to the Commissioners at the next business meeting.

Sheriff Department (SD) Report:

The SD representative, Operations Lieutenant, Diana Holloway, had no monthly report; however, in response to Commissioner Andrew's question regarding the Long Beach courthouse, Lieutenant Holloway

informed the Commissioners that the courthouse is open and the details are being worked out. She further reported that the arraignments have been moved to the East Los Angeles Courthouse; the probation and parole components have also been moved to the Metropolitan Courthouse.

She asserted that the overall transition processes for the court closures have been smooth.

Also responding to Vice Chair Bacio's question, Lieutenant Holloway reported that the Hollywood Courthouse is minimally staffed during reconstruction with plans to be reopened next year.

Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Report:

DCFS had no representation at this meeting (Absence excused).

Probation Department (PD) Report:

Mr. Mike Varela, Director of the Dorothy Kirby Center (DKC), PD, introduced James T. Johnson, Superintendent of Detention Services Bureau, PD, to the Commissioners. Superintendent Johnson presented a status report on the unsatisfactory conditions that were reported by the Commissioners at the October 2013 business meeting regarding the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Superintendent Johnson reported that they have received funding for the required repairs; the corrective work has begun in the Boys Special Handling Unit and will be completed by December 13, 2013. The corrective work for the Girls Special Handling Unit is scheduled to begin on December 16, 2013 and will be completed on January 13, 2013. The facility floors and ceilings will be replaced and the interior/exterior of the building will be painted.

Additionally, the youth at the facility will continue to assist with the cleaning of the premises; however, a professional cleaning company will be coming to provide detail cleaning throughout the facility quarterly. Nonetheless, the staff are being held accountable for ensuring continued maintenance and cleanliness of the facility.

The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the necessary and adequate follow up to correct the unsatisfactory conditions. They advised Superintendent Johnson of their intent to revisit the camp in January or early February 2014 to conduct a follow-up inspection.

Mr. Varela reported that DKC received a donation from a local church toward the renovation of the library. The renovation will be completed soon and the Commissioners will be invited to see the new improvements. Furthermore, the renovation at Camp Gonzales is also moving forward and it's anticipated to be completed by the end of December 2013.

It was also reported that the PD and DMH are collaboratively focusing on having a maximum of 60 youth at each camp (15 youth and 2 staff per wing).

Mr. Varela also informed the Commissioners that Camp Gonzales' Aggressive Replacement Therapy program is a rehabilitation program designed to get the youth off the street and teach them alternative solutions to dealing with compromising situations.

Ms. Pamela Pease, Supervising Deputy Probation Officer, Group Home Monitoring and Investigations Unit, Placement Services Bureau, PD, provided the monthly status report of group home AWOLs for the month of October 2013 as follows:

128 AWOLS

- **115 Youth Involved**
 - **10 = Repeat Offenders**
 - **49 = Remain AWOL**
 - **47 = Returned to Group Home**
 - **27 = Juvenile Hall**
 - **1 = Home on Probation**
 - **5 = Camp Detention Program**
 - **1 = Terminated Out**

There were no group homes on hold for the month of October 2013.

The following referrals were reported for the month of October 2013:

2 Child Abuse Referrals

- **1 = Unfounded (Penny Lane)**
- **1 = Pending (Children Are Our Future Terry House)**

10 Group Home Investigations

- **5 = Unfounded**

- 3 = Substantiated
- 2 = Pending

Ms. Pease informed the Commissioners that the PD's monitoring reports for fiscal year 2012/2013 have been completed; a few of the reports are awaiting approval before they can be posted on the website.

The PD is in various stages of preparation for two (2) potential adoptions. The next adoption is scheduled for December 12, 2013. There are five (5) potential legal guardianships; one (1) is being finalized.

Internal Services Department (ISD) Report:

Mr. Brian Lear, Building Crafts Superintendent, (ISD), advised the Commission that the repairs and painting of the buckling sidewalks at the Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse, are the responsibilities of the American Building Maintenance Industries.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

3. Chairperson's Report on various items for November 20, 2013. (13-5334)

Chairperson Montaña shared the following Newspaper Articles:

Los Angeles Times

- Pastor, a top Baca aide, put on leave (November 14, 2013)

Daily Breeze

- Sheriff's officials ordered to pay (November 14, 2013)

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

4. Treasurer's Report for November 20, 2013. (13-5335)

Vice Chairperson Bacio reported that the current bank statement balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund remains at \$715.96.

5. Staff Report on Correspondence Received, and Department Representative Reports for November 20, 2013. (13-5336)

There was no report.

6. Review of Group Home Compliance Monitoring Audit Reports presented on

November 20, 2013. (13-5337)

In Compliance:

- Vice Chairperson Bacio visited West Covina FFA (Casa Esperanza Treatment Center), Page 42, #2, on November 19, 2013. The facility was in compliance; however, he was unable to review the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) because they were locked and the keys were unavailable.

7. Commissioners' Reports on Group Home and/or Detention Facilities Inspections from November 14, 2013 to November 19, 2013. (13-5338)

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were reported as being in satisfactory condition:

- Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Norwalk Sheriff Station on November 15, 2013. The facility was in satisfactory condition with the exception of the phone cord in the trustees' quarters which was too long. Staff was advised to shorten the cord to prevent it from being used as a strangulation weapon by the inmates.
- Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Pitchess Detention Center (North County Correctional Facility) on November 18, 2013. The Commissioners expressed total satisfaction for the condition of the facility. Staff was directed to prepare a correspondence to the Board of Supervisors (Board) recommending a Board Commendation for the Center.
- Chairperson Montaña and Commissioner Andrews visited Camp Scott on November 19, 2013. The Commissioners also expressed total satisfaction for the condition of the facility; specifically, for the success of the DBT program. Staff was also requested to prepare a correspondence to the Board recommending a Board Commendation for the camp.
- Commissioner Russell visited Universal City Walk Sub Station, on November 19, 2013.
- Vice Chairperson Bacio and Commissioner Hill visited Careprovider Organization Foundation (Careprovider Children & Family Services II), Page 3, #6, on November 14, 2013.

During the reporting period, the following Group Homes/Facilities were visited but not inspected:

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- **Commissioner Bigby visited Hillside Home for Children (Boys Satellite Home), Page 21, #2, on November 7, 2013 and reported that no one was home.**

8. Discussion on the Commission's Annual Holiday Gathering. (13-5383)

Following a brief discussion, the Commission unanimously agreed to have its holiday lunch on December 11, 2013 at 12 noon. The location will be determined at the next meeting.

9. Consideration and approval of the Commission's 2014 Meeting Schedule. (13-5385)

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed dates for the 2014 SBC meeting schedule. On motion of Commissioner Donald S. Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Barbara Bigby and unanimously carried, the 2014 meeting schedule was approved as presented.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) referred to staff or placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action came to the attention of the Committee subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (13-5339)

There were no matters presented for a future agenda.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (13-5340)

There were no members of the public present to address the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of November 20, 2013. (13-5341)

There being no further business, Chairperson Montano adjourned the meeting of November 20, 2013 at 12:01 a.m.